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## INTRODUCTION

## What Does Contraceptive Logistics Mean?

The contraceptive logistics system is a vitally important part of any program that provides family planning services. It is the system that is responsible for getting the contraceptives from the manufacturer to the family planning client. It encompasses a number of activities along the way, such as transporting and storing the contraceptives, maintaining adequate supply levels, and keeping records. If the logistics system is not working well, service delivery sites will not have the contraceptive supplies their clients need.

The purpose of a contraceptive logistics system is to get the

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right quantities of the right contraceptives to the right places at the right time in the right condition at the right cost.
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In other words, the staff who manage contraceptive supplies need to determine

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how much (quantity and cost)
  of what (contraceptive) needs to go
  where (what location)
  when and
  how to get it there in good condition
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To provide family planning clients with good contraceptive services, you must make sure that you have

- The right amount of supplies on hand (not too many, not too few).
- Contraceptives of good quality (not expired, not damaged).
- A full selection of the contraceptive methods that your program offers and clients request.

## **Brief Logistics Glossary**

The following logistics terms are used in this guide.

**Contraceptive method:** A category of contraceptive, such as oral contraceptives, intrauterine devices (IUDs), injectable contraceptives, and condoms.

Contraceptive product: The method and brand name of a contraceptive. Different brands of the same contraceptive method are considered to be separate products. For example, Lo-Femenal® and Microgynon® are different brands of combined oral contraceptive pills, and are separate contraceptive products.

**Dispense (to user):** To provide a contraceptive or other item to its ultimate user (the client). A service provider dispenses contraceptives to a family planning user at a clinic or other outlet.

**Dispensed-to-user data:** The number of units of a product (usually a specific brand or contraceptive method) provided to clients of family planning services (contraceptive users) over a specified time period.

**Issue:** To provide a contraceptive or other item to a storage or service delivery facility. A storage facility issues supplies either to an outlet or to another storage facility (but not to a user).

**Lead time:** The interval between the time that supplies are ordered (or allocated) and when they are received and available for use.

**Outlet or service delivery point:** A clinic or other site where contraceptives are dispensed to users.

**Review period or order interval:** The routine interval between reviews of stock levels to determine whether an order should be placed, or between regularly scheduled orders of supplies.

**Stockout:** When an outlet or storage facility has no stock on hand of a particular item.